



Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

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FALL, 1970

AND NOW, CHURCH COOPERATION

A sermon dialogue, "The Confusion of Sexual Identity," took place at the Spencer Memorial Church, Brooklyn Heights, N. Y. (Presbyterian, Founded 1831, The Old First Church), at the regular worship service on Sunday, June 21, 1970, between Rev. William Glenesk and Dr. Leo Wollman.

Discussing the transsexual problem and the sex reassignment operation, Reverend Glenesk cited the Bible reference, "Ye shall be born again."

Following the service, during a lively and thought-provoking coffee hour symposium, the discussion was continued. Two pre-operative and two post-operative transsexuals of both sexes, as well as Mrs. Zelda Suplee of EEF, assisted Rev. Glenesk and Dr. Wollman in the panel.

This is undoubtedly a "first" in church history. There is no reason why it cannot be repeated elsewhere. We shall be glad to cooperate with other members of the clergy who may wish to enlighten their congregations on this misunderstood problem.

EPISCOPAL REPORT ON TRANSSEXUALISM

A six-page survey on sex reassignment, including a quotation from the Fall 1969 Erickson Educational Foundation Newsletter and material from *The Transsexual Phenomenon* by Dr. Harry Benjamin, as well as quotations from Dr. John Money and others, appears in *Deadline for Survival — A Survey of Moral Issues in Science and Medicine* by Kenneth W. Mann. This important book was commissioned for a report to the 1970 General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Houston and was published by the Academy of Religion and Mental Health and the Seabury Press, 815 Second Av., N.Y. 10017. (\$2.95)

The study concludes with a summary of the ethical necessities attached to sex reassignment technology and some of the professional responsibilities involved.

We applaud this important contribution to the study and treatment of serious human concerns in the light of scientific and medical progress.

We would like to recommend this book not only for its resource application to transsexualism and its possible assistance to members of the clergy in understanding the subject, but to everyone concerned in transsexualism and other aspects of mod-

FIRST PAMPHLET OF ADVICE SERIES PRINTED

"Some Legal Aspects of Transsexualism—1970" has been prepared by the Foundation. "... as a stop-gap in the need for helpful information. In anticipation of a revised edition and other pamphlets, communications are welcome from individuals whose relevant experiences may be useful," appears on the inside cover.

It must be remembered that official attitudes and conditions vary in almost every community and change constantly. We are always pleased, however, to receive reports of progress as public and administrative understanding of the problem increases.

Copies of the pamphlet are available on request as long as the supply lasts. Future pamphlets on other phases of the problem will be announced when published.

PENNSYLVANIA PROGRESS

After careful consideration of the application of a Pennsylvania resident under pre-operative treatment for transsexualism, together with medical statements, and information supplied by the Erickson Educational Foundation, the Bureau of Special Health Services, Department of Health, has issued a certificate acknowledging the condition and authorizing the individual to live and dress as a woman during this pre-operative phase.

Another important and progressive step was the Director's statement: "I have also discussed the status of your driver's license with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and been informed that they would accept a request for a change in your license—from one with your full name to one using your initials. If you complete an application requesting this change and submit it to the Department of Health, we would transmit it to the Operator's Unit for their acceptance."

Other states please note!

(Continued)

ern living where decisions have to be made "based on a background of facts and an outlook that will produce a minimum of harmful effects and a maximum of benefit." (Dana L. Farnsworth, M.D., Professor of Hygiene and Director of University Health Services, Harvard University)

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM JOHN MONEY

In the past two years, Dr. Money, medical psychologist of the Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Committee, author of **Sex Errors of the Body**, has heard of two male transsexuals who discovered soon after undergoing sex reassignment that they had made a tragic mistake. In both cases the patients made a too sudden decision that sex reassignment would be the answer to their dilemma. They planned from the point of view that surgery had to be done as rapidly as possible and both left the country to obtain it.

In the future, candidates for transsexual surgery can safeguard themselves against regret by considering surgery, not the first, but the last step in their rehabilitation as a member of the other sex. However strong one's subjective feelings and convictions, Dr. Money emphasized, there is no substitute for the actual experience of living as a member of the other sex and experiencing the feedback of being treated as a member of that sex by all other people. Dr. Money, EEF Board Member and leading authority in the field of Psychosexuality, strongly recommends, "All transsexuals, whether male or female, should require themselves to become totally rehabilitated socially and psychologically, vocationally and economically, in their new sex before embarking on the irreversible step of surgery. During this rehabilitation period they can be on hormonal treatment. Surgery then takes its place as a confirmation of what has, in fact, already been achieved. The patient is able to leave the hospital and resume a life that has already been prepared, without the stress and strain of recovering from surgery while making a very taxing and sometimes difficult series of new adjustments."

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- Nov. 11-12, 1970—University of Missouri-Columbia
"Sex and Gender Deviations"
- Nov. 13, 1970—University of Miami
Preliminary Invitational Florida Symposium on Gender Identity (EEF sponsored)
- Jan. 16-17, 1971—New Orleans
Invitational workshop for faculty members of University Gender Identity Medical Units to exchange information on techniques. Sponsored jointly by University of Minnesota Gender Identity Unit and EEF.
- August, 1971 — Copenhagen. Second International Symposium on Gender Identity, sponsored by EEF; definite dates to be announced.

"I AM NOT THIS BODY"

is the title of the 28-minute documentary film on transsexualism sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation and produced by Sunrise Films. This *cinema verite* optical sound production, the first presentation of its kind on this subject, was filmed in the New York office of the Foundation. The focus was a group conversation between Pamela Lincoln of stage and TV, who was largely unfamiliar with the subject and seeking information; Dr. Leo Wollman; Lynn Raskin, then pre-operative, and Deborah Hartin, post-operative, and Zelda Suplee, Foundation representative.

Quoting from the film, we feel, will underline some of the Foundation aims in this field:

"Scientific research has yet to discover the cause of the human condition known as transsexualism. Whether it is eventually determined that pre-natal hormonal imbalance or early environment influences are responsible, the fact remains that thousands of individuals suffer desperately, convinced that their anatomical sex does not match their psychic sex.

"The Erickson Educational Foundation, which among other projects has been helping to fund the Gender Identity Clinic at Johns Hopkins, is endeavoring to encourage research and medical and professional cooperation and better public understanding of a problem endured by many individuals through no fault of their own. The transsexual is seeking the opportunity to function as a complete person, fulfilling his or her potential as a worthy member of society."

GRATIFYING PROGRESS — AND HELP WANTED

Only two years ago we were glad to enumerate six Gender Identity research and treatment teams in the United States and Canada. While there is still enormous room for expansion, we are more than happy to report that there are at present twelve units that are endeavoring to ameliorate the suffering of individuals with the transsexual condition.

This Newsletter underlines the effort of the Erickson Educational Foundation to expand our network of physicians who are willing to take referrals for preliminary consultation and possible hormone therapy for transsexuals in their locality. We shall be glad to send further information to practitioners in an attempt to help build competence in this new area.

Also needed is the cooperation of professionals in other disciplines to aid in handling personal, psychological and social problems. A major area in which help is urgently needed is the vocational—making job opportunities available to pre-operative transsexuals living in the role of the opposite sex. We welcome your offers of interest and participation.

IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR CROSS-DRESSING

Patients whose physicians are prescribing hormones for treatment of a transsexual condition may apply for an I.D. card issued by the Erickson Educational Foundation, Baton Rouge office. Be sure to supply the following information: Name and address and telephone number of physician. Patient's height, weight, color of eyes, and date of birth.

The card states that the undersigned is required to live in the gender of his/her choice for six months or more as a pre-requisite to sex-reassignment surgery. Expiration date of the card is six months after issue date and must be renewed. It is also suggested that this card be supplemented by a note from the physician.

SAN FRANCISCO SIDELIGHTS

. . . A recent conference sponsored by Elliott Blackstone, director of the Police Community Relations Office, and his assistant Wendy Kohler, director of the EEF sponsored National Transsexual Counseling Unit, with a number of rehabilitation department representatives, clarified the services that are available and will be made available to pre-operative transsexuals, following medical evaluation, through various state, county and city offices and agencies. This would apply to areas of vocational training, schooling, personal and social adjustment to the new gender role. Employment prior to surgery remains the problem still to be solved.

. . . Deryck Calderwood, Ph.D., of Guidance Associates, a subsidiary of Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., interviewed Officer Blackstone and Wendy Kohler for an education program segment utilizing slides and recordings to be released in the spring of 1971 for school use.

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF TRANSSEXUALISM

Mark Sulcove, graduate student in the Sociological Department at Indiana University, is writing his doctoral dissertation on the social reality of transsexualism, under the direction of Martin S. Weinberg, Senior Sociologist at the Institute of Sex Research founded by Alfred E. Kinsey. The study entitled, "The Language and Organization of Sex and Gender Management—A study of the achievement and maintenance of an ascribed status," is being researched in New York City, 1970-1971.

Mr. Sulcove will appreciate receiving any cooperation in obtaining further data. Transsexuals in the New York metropolitan area who are willing to volunteer for interviews may write the New York office of the Foundation — "Attention: Mr. Mark Sulcove."

RESPONSE TO BOOK GRATIFYING

The Johns Hopkins Press reports that half the first printing of **Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment**—Richard Green, M.D., and John Money, Ph.D., Editors, was sold during the first year. This figure would be considered good sales over a two-year period!

Sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation, the book has been favorably reviewed in a number of American and British professional journals. Among comments: "A review of medical, legal, social, physiological and psychological aspects of transsexualism is made by over 30 contributors in what amounts to an exhaustive encyclopedia on the subject." . . . "In toto: a book as rich in information as in stimulation for further research." . . . "Scientifically sound and detailed and exceptionally interesting." " . . . terms comprehensible to the intelligent lay reader about what is being done and what may be done in the near future." . . . "Should be in all medical and university libraries." . . . "A major contribution to medical literature and essential reading in the medical college." . . . "Subject material of this volume has significance extending well beyond the question of what is a transsexual and how is one treated. . . . There are profound theoretical ramifications relevant to the deepest roots of human nature dispersed throughout this authoritative text." . . . "It is, considering the current state of the economy, the best investment of \$15 available to anyone interested in understanding human nature." etc., etc., etc.

STUDENTS LEARN

Dr. Stanley Krippner has been selected by a group of college students at N.Y.U. to teach an undergraduate seminar on alienation, as part of their Metropolitan Leadership Program, an experimental curriculum. Transsexualism is one of the examples of alienation explored by the class which recently heard Miss Debbie Hartin describe her life as a transsexual and the sex reassignment operation which she experienced.

Across the continent college classes have also been addressed on the subject by Wendy Kohler.

PLATFORM NOTES

It is impossible to report in detail the increasing number of significant lectures being delivered before professional groups by specialists in the transsexual field. However, outstanding mileage record is held by Dr. Leo Wollman, whose various speaking engagement trips have ranged from Istanbul, Milan, Nairobi, Mainz, Barcelona, Malaga and Costa Del Brava to domestic meetings, and Dr. John Money who has covered the area "down under."

IN FINE PRINT

. . . The press is giving widespread coverage to many aspects of the transsexual field in a variety of aspects. We applaud the progressive trend of journalistic maturity that is evident in the treatment of the subject. "Freak Label Is Thing of the Past Christine Jorgensen Has Adjusted" is the Washington Post News Service headline on an interview in connection with the film "The Christine Jorgensen Story." Incidentally this interesting film is a gratifying contribution to the growth of public understanding of the problem.

. . . The United Press International coverage of UCLA Dr. Lawrence E. Newman's article in August 1970 issue of Archives of General Psychiatry, emphasized the need for spotting and treating the transsexual condition in early childhood. "Medicine is obligated to relieve misery where it can and if compelled to live as a male, the male transsexual is condemned to a miserable life. Aside from the chance of reversing 'mistaken gender identity' in childhood, there is no workable therapy for the true male transsexual except to help him become a female in fact." Rocky Mt. News headlines the UPI report "If Junior wants to be Jane—let him."

. . . A 5-installment series of articles on transsexualism, written by Women's Editor Florence Salamone, appeared in the Yonkers, N.Y. Herald-Statesman. In addition to drawing on local professional resources, the series was assisted by EEF cooperation in supplying printed source information and a press conference with preoperative and postoperative transsexuals willing to be interviewed, and the assistance of sociologist Mark Sulcove. We commend this example of objective and sympathetic reporting of the current scene as well as the problems and fears of the individuals concerned.

. . . A report on the purposes and work of the Erickson Educational Foundation was published in the April, 1970, issue of the American Journal of Psychotherapy.

FROM BALTIMORE TO BUFFALO

Dr. Anke Ehrhardt is nearing the completion of her EEF-sponsored book, **Psychosexual Differentiation**, based on research in the Johns Hopkins Department of Psychohormonal Research, in collaboration with Dr. John Money. Dr. Ehrhardt is now Assistant Research Professor in both the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Children's Hospital of the State University of New York in Buffalo. Working in close connection with endocrinology and gynecology, Dr. Ehrhardt will build up a research unit of psychoendocrinology. In recognition of her expertise in hormonal and sexual disorders, she is frequently called on for professional lectures.

JOURNEY FROM JOHNS HOPKINS

Jon K. Meyer, M.D., Director of the Gender Identity Clinic and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, has returned from a world trip during which he exchanged ideas with sex researchers interested in transsexual problems. Countries visited were Denmark, Austria, Greece, Turkey, India, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

SEATTLE COUNSELING SERVICE EXPANDS

Group therapy has been added to the services provided by the EEF sponsored Seattle Counseling Service for Homosexuals. In a recent telephone interview, Dr. Robert W. Deisher, Professor at the University of Washington Medical School and founder of the Service to assist young homosexuals in meeting their personal, medical and social problems, reported that young people were seeking help with problems other than homosexuality.

Counselors are being trained to help in these associated areas of gender role disorientation, such as transvestism and transsexualism. There has been a marked increase in the percentage of calls from young female homosexuals.

For some reason that Dr. Deisher has not been able to analyze readily, they have been receiving an increasing number of calls relating to suicide threats or attempts, none of which ended tragically.

The demands on the service are reaching the point where a fulltime co-ordinator-counselor is needed, but this is not feasible as yet.

HISTORY REDEEMS ITSELF

California award-winning "Outstanding Professor," historian and EEF grantee, Dr. Vern L. Bullough, has sparked an enlightening step in academic history. His paper, "Sex in History: a Virgin Field" was prepared for the first session on sex in history ever scheduled for a meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston. Heretofore historical studies of the biological and social aspects of sex as well as historical studies about women have been avoided, intentionally or otherwise.

Dr. Bullough is working on a 3-year EEF sponsored project, "A Cross-Cultural and Historical Study of Homosexuality."

COLLECTORS ITEM

Would you like an autographed first edition copy of **CHRISTINE JORGENSEN—A Personal Autobiography**? Hard-cover copies of this significant human document are available at \$5.00 each postpaid from:

MISS CHRISTINE JORGENSEN
c/o Edward Small, Sam Goldwyn Studios
North Formosa Avenue, Hollywood, Calif. 90046

FULL MOON FOSTERS ESP!

A lunar, astronomical analysis of telepathy experiments, sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation, has been in process over the past five years at the Maimonides Dream Laboratory, Brooklyn, N.Y.

An inspection of 80 night-time experiments was made in which a "sender" attempted to transmit a message to a sleeping subject. Outside judges determined whether or not the attempt had been successful. It was discovered that telepathy was most successful on the nights of the full moon and least successful when the moon was in its final phase.

The final report is being prepared by Dr. Stanley Krippner, Bryan Washburn and Michael Cavallo.

FORUM FILMS COMPLETED

Three films produced by Laird Sutton of the National Sex and Drug Forum, a service of The Glide Urban Center, San Francisco, have been developed for use in sex education courses for medical and educational institutions, therapists and counselors. The films, to which the Erickson Educational Foundation has contributed, are part of the Forum's interpretive materials for the understanding of sexual attitudes. Training courses are taught by co-founders and directors, Rev. Ted McIlvenna and Joel Fort, M.D., sociologist and public health specialist.

ON THE AIR POLLUTION FRONT

Air pollution dangers and remedial efforts make daily headlines these days. Not in the headlines, however, is the fact that five years ago William Gutman, M.D., of New York City, founder of the International Institute for Research in Homeopathic Medicine, in an EEF sponsored project, developed an oral desensitizing agent to counteract the effects of air pollution. This desensitizing factor is currently also in use in the treatment of the deleterious effects of air pollution on emphysema and bronchial asthma.

NIMH REPORT ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The "Final Report on the Task Force on Homosexuality" commissioned by government sponsorship and prepared by a group of outstanding behavioral, medical, social and legal scientists under the chairmanship of Dr. Evelyn Hooker, UCLA, has been reprinted in the ONE Institute Quarterly, No. 22 (\$1), 2256 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles 90006.

This high level research report concludes with recommendations which should be acted upon to secure protection of social and civil rights of these citizens. We endorse this forward step.

THE FOUNDATION FOR MIND RESEARCH

work of Robert E. L. Masters and Dr. Jean Houston is stimulating wide attention in the press as well as in scientific, academic and religious circles. Authors of "Varieties of Psychedelic Experience," this EEF-grantee husband-and-wife team has been working on nondrug induced altered states of consciousness in healthy, well-functioning individuals.

One method used is "sensory overload," in which the subject is immersed in sound and light from dissolving colored slides, which creates specific psychological, religious-type and emotional experiences. Another method uses the ASCID—the vertical "Altered State of Consciousness Induction Device" (in contrast to the horizontal ASCID used by Dr. Bernard Aaronson described in another item).

The Masters-Houston work was reported on in the N.Y. Times article, dated August 26, 1970, "Researchers Induce Mystical Visions Without Drugs," and in the October 5, 1970 issue of Time Magazine. Other articles will be forthcoming in a number of American, British and continental periodicals.

Ongoing work of the Foundation is a study into the creative processes of artists, and problem-solving with scientists and mathematicians in altered states of consciousness.

WHEN THE CRADLE ROCKS

What happens when you are rocked in the cradle—the horizontal ASCID? Bernard S. Aaronson, Ph.D., Chief Experimental Psychologist at N. J. Neuro-Psychiatric Institute, Princeton, is gathering baseline data in an EEF-sponsored project.

The subject is rocked for 20 minutes, remains in the ASCID as long as desired after the motion subsides and then reports on his experiences.

In an interim telephone report Dr. Aaronson stated: "It is our feeling that it is a method of producing hypnogogic imagery (the type one gets before falling asleep). The experiences reported vary from 'nothing' to major 'psychedelic experiences' and will be tabulated.

"Our purpose is to investigate all the parameters (the limits of what constitutes the phenomena). We will be conducting 100 experiments: the effect of rocking and no rocking; the effect of lying on the stomach as well as on the back; difference of male and female reaction, etc., and eventually hope to contrast results with research findings on the vertical ASCID."

PSYCHEDELICS AND LANGUAGE STUDY

The current issue of The Journal of Psychedelic Drugs contains an article entitled "Psychedelic Experience and the Language Process," by Dr. Stanley Krippner, the preparation of which was supported by an EEF grant. The article describes both the positive and negative effects of LSD-type drugs on receptive and expressive language functioning.

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